

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the proposed amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In this response, independent claims 1, 11 and 18 have been amended in a manner which overcomes the rejection of these claims under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Masuyama et al. and which also overcome the objections raised in paragraph #1 of this Office Action. For example, the allowable subject matter of claim 4 has been introduced into claim 1, while claims 11 and 18 have been amended to recite subject matter which is neither disclosed in nor suggested by the Masuyama et al. reference. Support for the amendments is found in the originally filed specification and claims.

The amendments to the independent claims render moot the rejection of dependent claims 13-15 under 35 USC § 103(a).

New claims 20 and 21 are added in this response. These claims are allowable over the art of record in that they set forth subject matter which is neither disclosed in nor suggested by the art applied in this Office Action. Support for the subject matter set forth in these new claims is also found in the originally filed specification and claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as they currently stand before the Patent Office are allowable over the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is courteously solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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